

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRESTAGE FILTERING COMMUNICATIONS

Abstract Of The Disclosure

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10 In a main embodiment, prestage filtering is applied via user-
definable filter parameters (e.g., reject, pass, or granularity filters)
on data being transferred between a communication unit (201) and
communication server (220). For downloading, e.g., email from a host
post office (240), a communication server controller (229)
preferably either forwards the filter parameters in a query object or
message to the post office to apply and return qualified mail (406-
414), or the communication server receives all unprocessed mail and
applies the filters locally (418-420), only acknowledging as
15 processed that mail which passes the filters. For uploading, e.g.,
email from a client, a client controller applies an upload prestage
filter (432) so as to retain all filter-rejected email, while
transmitting email passing the filters (434). Thus, only desired data
transfers (i.e., those meeting user defined filters) are communicated
20 over the expense-bearing networks between the remote unit and
communication server.